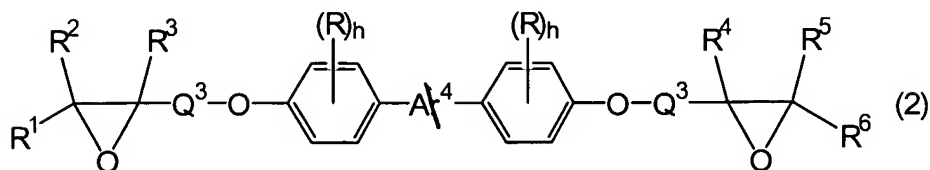


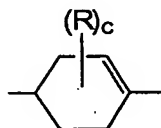
Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An epoxy compound represented by the formula (2):



wherein

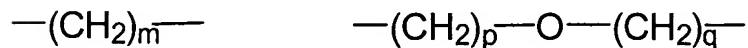
A^4 denotes a divalent group represented by the following formula:



in which R denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, c denotes an integer of 1 to 7, h denotes an integer of 1 to 4, and when more than one R exists in said divalent group, all of R may be the same group or different groups;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

Q^3 denotes any one of groups represented by the following formulas:

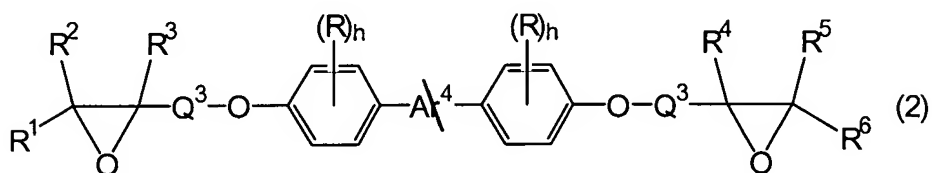


in which m denotes an integer of 1 to 9, p and q denote an integer of 1 to 8, and the sum of p and q is 9 or less, and methylene groups composing the group represented by Q^3 are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms.

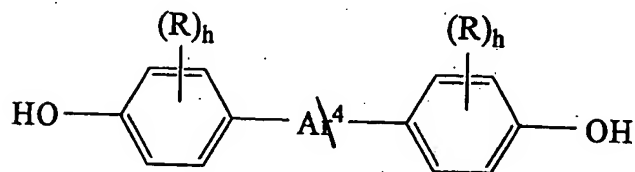
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The epoxy compound according to claim-21, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are hydrogen atoms.

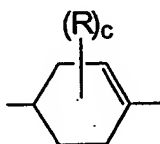
4. (Currently amended) A method for producing an epoxy compound represented by the following formula (2):



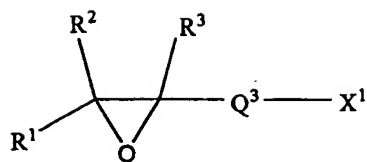
wherein Ar^4 , R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 and Q^3 each are as defined below, which comprises reacting a compound represented by the formula:



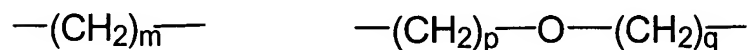
wherein Ar^4 denotes a divalent group represented by the following formula:



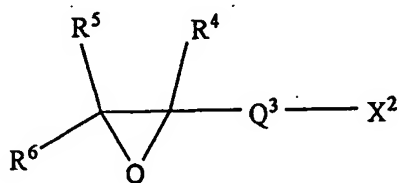
in which R denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, c denotes an integer of 1 to 7, h denotes an integer of 1 to 4, and when more than one R exists in said divalent group, all of R may be the same group or different groups; a compound represented by the formula:



wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, X^1 denotes a halogen atom, and Q^3 denotes any one of groups represented by the following formulas:



in which m denotes an integer of 1 to 9, p and q denote an integer of 1 to 8, and the sum of p and q is 9 or less, and methylene groups composing the group represented by Q^3 are optionally substituted with an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and a compound represented by the following formula:



wherein R^4 , R^5 and R^6 are the same or different and each denotes a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, Q^3 is as defined above, and X^2 denotes a halogen atom, in the presence of a base.

5. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition comprising the epoxy compound according to claim 1 and a curing agent.
6. (Previously presented) The epoxy composition according to claim 5, wherein the curing agent is 4,4'-diaminodiphenylmethane, 4,4'-diaminodiphenylethane, 1,5-diaminonaphthalene or p-phenylenediamine.

7. (Previously presented) A cured epoxy resin obtained by curing the epoxy composition according to claim 5.
8. (Previously presented) A prepreg obtained by applying or impregnating the epoxy composition according to claim 5 to or into a base material, followed by semi-curing.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented) An epoxy composition comprising the epoxy compound according to claim 3 and a curing agent.
11. (Previously presented) A cured epoxy resin obtained by curing the epoxy composition according to claim 6.
12. (Previously presented) A prepreg obtained by applying or impregnating the epoxy composition according to claim 6 to or into a base material, followed by semi-curing.